

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07  
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R 071409Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 385

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UK

SUBJECT: BULLOCK COMMITTEE REPORT

REF: LONDON 1538

1. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE BULLOCK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (REFTEL) WILL BE REGARDED ADVERSELY BY AMERICAN BUSINESS IN BRITAIN--PRELIMINARY INDICATINS AT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARE TO THIS EFFECT--AND, IF IMPLEMENTED, ARE LIKELY TO HAVE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON FURTHER AMERICAN INVESTMENT. THERE ALSO IS LIKELY TO BE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON INVESTMENT PLANS IN THE INTERIM PERIOD TO THE EXTENT THE PROPOSALS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY BUSINESS.

2. SINCE BRITISH BUSINESS IS VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO COMPROMISE, THERE PROBABLY IS LITTLE CHANCE OF IMPLEMENTATIN OF BULLOCK AS PROPOSED.

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HOWEVER, IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WHAT SORTOF COM-PROMISE OR WATERED DOWN VERSIONMAY EMERGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.

3. SINCE WE WERE INFORMED BY CBI THAT THEY EXPECT TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BULLOCK RECOMMENDATIONS, WE HAVE

RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH THE CHAMBER. THE CHAMBER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS ASKED THE CHAMBER'S TRADE PROMOTION COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE REPORT AND RECOMMEND WHAT ACTION, IF ANY SHOULD BE TAKEN. THE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET FEBRUARY 23 AND EMBASSY ADVISORY DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.

4. PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, WE BELIEVE THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UK GOVERNMENT NOR TAKE ANY OTHER OFFICIAL ACTION REGARDING THE REPORT, BUT THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO INDICATE THE VIEW STATED IN PARAGRAPH ONE ABOVE IF THEY SHOULD BE ASKED OR IF THE OCCASION SHOULD ARISE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH THE MATTER.

5. OUR TENTATIVE VIEW, PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, IS THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE FOR THE CHAMBER AS SUCH TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE MATTER, SINCE, LIKE ANY OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE EMBASSY, THIS WOULD BE PORTRAYED AS OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND ALSO MIGHT TEND TO CONSOLIDATE UNION AND LEFT WING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSALS. OPPOSITION OR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE COMPROMISE MIGHT BETTER BE PURSUED BY COMPANIES WISHING TO DO SO INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH CBI OR OTHER BRITISH ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE, WHICH WOULD AVOID ANY COLLECTIVE AMERICAN LABEL. ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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